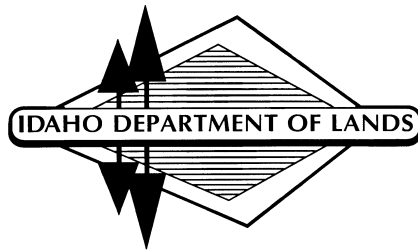


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STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

*James E. Risch, Governor
Ben Ysursa, Secretary of State
Lawrence G. Wasden, Attorney General
Keith L. Johnson, State Controller
Marilyn Howard, Sup't of Public Instruction*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2006

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DEPARTMENT OF LANDS VETERAN APPOINTED INTERIM DIRECTOR

BOISE – The Idaho Land Board today appointed George Bacon as the interim director of the Idaho Department of Lands. Bacon will replace retiring director Winston Wiggins whose last day is August 31.

Bacon has been a Lands employee for 28 years and is currently the Assistant Director, Lands, Minerals and Range Management. After graduating from the University of Idaho in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management, Bacon began his career with the department in 1978 at Priest Lake as a cedar forester. He also worked in Deary, Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint in different positions before moving to Boise in 2001 when he was appointed Operations Chief, South.

Governor Jim Risch said Bacon is the right choice at this time. "George is a long-time veteran of the department and is the right person to lead the agency while a search is conducted to find a permanent director," said Risch.

Secretary of State Ben Ysursa agreed, saying, "George Bacon is a proven administrator with the Idaho Department of Lands and will lead the department in a highly effective manner."

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Marilyn Howard said, "I look forward to working with Mr. Bacon as he assumes his new role."

"During his long tenure with the Department of Lands, George Bacon has risen through the ranks to become a central part of the management team," Attorney General Lawrence Wasden said. "I'm confident he will provide strong leadership during this period of transition as we select a new director."

Bacon will serve as the interim director of the Department of Lands until the Land Board names a permanent director.

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